

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ravi Chaudhary, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Capito	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Sullivan
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Coons	Merkley	Tillis
Cornyn	Moran	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Romney	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lee	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—7

Barrasso	Feinstein	Young
Booker	Fetterman	
Cruz	McConnell	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 64, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ravi Chaudhary, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today with great concern to talk about the bloated budget that President Biden has put forward and, really, what it says about his vision for the future of our country, because a budget is a vision.

As my Republican colleagues and I will highlight today, this budget is the latest edition in his tax-and-spend agenda. It also fits the standards my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have set by passing inflation-causing, deficit-raising legislation, like the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. This budget has no chance of becoming law. And that is the good news here and great news for our constituents back home because this misguided proposal would saddle American families with more taxes, more waste, more debt, and more government intrusion that our constituents just do not deserve. The bad news is—at least for this administration—that the unveiling of this budget shines a spotlight on the priorities of the President, his administration, and his party.

This should alarm all of us. Case in point, this \$6.8 trillion proposal has been released at a time when so many Americans are struggling to afford basic necessities, interest rates are soaring, our national debt is climbing at an alarming rate, and small businesses are struggling to make ends meet.

While the Biden administration and our Democrats on the other side of the aisle expect families to make concessions in their everyday lives—like spending less at the grocery store, putting off buying your first home, or purchasing an electric vehicle to avoid rising gas prices—they are attempting to spend nearly \$7 trillion, with a "t", of hard-earned taxpayers' dollars, pile on to our national debt, and massively expand the scope and authority of Federal Agencies, like the IRS, which they massively expanded just several months ago.

What exactly is President Biden's tax-and-spend proposal? Let's dig in just a little bit. President Biden makes his priorities clear with his proposed changes to base discretionary funding for Federal Agencies. That is the baseline.

The Environmental Protection Agency—I have a lot to do with this Agency because it comes right into my Committee on Environment and Public Works—gets a staggering—the most of any other Agency—19-percent increase in funding year to year. But the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation—remember, Homeland Security is the one that deals with immigration and the crisis at the southern border and the flow of drugs and other things—and the Small Business Administration—where in my State, if you don't grow as a small business, you are not growing—they are all facing budget cuts.

The White House priorities could not be clearer. And when it comes to taxes under this budget proposed by the President, Main Street mom and pop businesses would feel strained like never before.

We just lowered the taxes in our State. It is the biggest tax cut ever in the State of West Virginia. Yet we are looking at taxes on small businesses and capital gains taxes. The corporate tax rate goes up. Taxes on American energy would increase. Retirement taxes go up. The Medicare tax would increase, and the personal income tax would go up to the highest level in decades.

What President Biden fails to realize is that the brunt of his tax hikes would be felt by those who own, invest in, or operate small- and medium-sized businesses. Maybe, that is why he doesn't put any extra money in the Small Business Administration.

This is a direct violation of his pledge to not raise taxes on small businesses.

The National Federation of Small Businesses issued a statement last week warning that the tax increase—and it is called the National Federation of Small Businesses. They are small businesses. They say that this "would further harm Main Street." It would "crush Main Street's ability to grow and create jobs."

The National Federation of Small Businesses believes that the Biden administration should increase focus on policies that will "provide certainty and promote economic growth to allow our small businesses to create jobs and raise wages."

My Republican colleagues and I could not agree more. It is my hope that the President and congressional Democrats will continue working on previously bipartisan tax issues that spur innovation and are pro-growth.

Just last week, as I said, our State passed historic tax cuts that signed into law by our Governor, Governor Justice, in the Mountain State. I wish our Federal Government was following this example. Instead, President Biden has chosen a different path that an analysis from the Tax Foundation found would create negative effects on savings, investments, and have economy-wide repercussions. The analysis continues that this brazen increase in taxes would ultimately harm our workers, international competitiveness, and domestic investment.

We talk about international competitiveness all the time. Why are we trying to move in a direction where our competitiveness would be less effective? In short, moving top tax rates in the United States beyond international norms reduces our economic growth.

You might ask yourself: Does the spending ever stop under President Biden and this budget?

Well, ironically, it does when you look at our own Department of Homeland Security, which secures the interior of our Nation. It is facing a budget cut under this proposal.